



# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**Mary, Mother of God - Solemnity**  
01 JANUARY 2021

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## HAPPY FEAST AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021

Today, our mother Church solemnly celebrates the feast of "Mary, the Mother of God" which is a very appropriate way to begin this New Year 2021. This celebration reminds us that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is our heavenly mother. Today we all are called to pray that God may bless each and every family in this New Year with his peace and joy, and we in turn share his peace and joy with one another. As we cherish her motherly love, care and protection in this strange pandemic time, we ask our Lord the grace that we too show that motherly care to those who are in need, especially the homeless, the elderly and the suffering.

*I wish you and your family a Happy Feast and a Blessed New Year 2021. Fr Antony*

### Mass time over the next few days

31 <sup>st</sup> Dec - Thursday	11pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
1 <sup>st</sup> Jan - Friday	00 am	Midnight Mass
	9.15am	Holy Mass
	7pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.30pm	Holy Mass
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan - Saturday	7.00pm	Holy Mass
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan - Sunday	9am	Holy Mass
	11.30am	Holy Mass

[please refer to the Sunday Newsletter for the Mass times of next week. We may have weekday Masses only in Zoom]

### Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and RCIA

**Baptism:** Please contact me and collect the application after one of our weekday Masses. Only six people are allowed to the celebration. Our new co-ordinator of Baptism catechises is **Donella Canelle**.

### First Holy Communion and Confirmation:

- The last date to submit your application is 17<sup>th</sup> January [Sunday].
- From February, you will have your classes via Zoom.
- From 17<sup>th</sup> April (after the Easter holidays) we hope to have regular classes at Hartley Hall.
- In October, we shall have the celebrations of the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

**Anne Mellis** is our co-ordinator of First Holy Communion Catechists and from April the classes will be held from 10am on Saturdays.

**Franck Angubi** is our new co-ordinator of the Sacrament of Confirmation catechises and the classes will begin at 4.45pm on Saturdays [4.45pm to 5pm – refreshments and socialising; 5pm to 5.15pm – prayer time; 5.15 to 6.15 – catechises; 6.15pm to 6.30pm – preparation for the Mass as candidates will be expected to take up different responsibilities in the Mass].

**R.C.I.A:** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) **Judy Chen** is our new co-ordinator of R.C.I.A programme. If you interested in finding out more about our Faith and joining the Catholic Church please come and see if this is for you. If you are a parishioner be an Apostle, invite friends, family members and acquaintances to take the opportunity to look at their lives and maybe find some answers to the big questions. Please contact Fr Antony or Judy Chen. [[drj\\_chen@msn.com](mailto:drj_chen@msn.com)]. We have already started the programme in Zoom and I am glad to inform you that we have got a good number of Enquirers this year.

**Please note:** When you come to church...

- \* The church will be very cold since we have to keep the windows and doors open. Please come with sufficient warm clothes.
- \* Please sanitise your hands as you enter and exit the church
- \* Please wear a face mask
- \* Please keep social distance. *Many thanks for your cooperation.*

Many thanks to our **Welcome Ministers** who welcome everyone at the entrance, collect information, and sanitise the whole church after the Mass.

### Readings at Mass

**First reading [Numbers 6:22-27]** The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

### Responsorial Psalm [Psalm 66(67):2-3,5,6,8]

***O God, be gracious and bless us.***

O God, be gracious and bless us  
and let your face shed its light upon us.

So will your ways be known upon earth  
and all nations learn your saving help.

***O God, be gracious and bless us.***

Let the nations be glad and exult  
for you rule the world with justice.

With fairness you rule the peoples,  
you guide the nations on earth.

***O God, be gracious and bless us.***

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

May God still give us his blessing  
till the ends of the earth revere him.

***O God, be gracious and bless us.***

**Second reading [Galatians 4:4-7]** When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave anymore; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

### Gospel Acclamation [Heb1:1-2]

Alleluia, alleluia!

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!

**Gospel - Luke 2:16-21** The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

**Ordination to Diaconate:** We have received the joyful news that one of our past parishioners, Matthew James Donnelly, who was baptised here at Holy Cross, has been Ordained Deacon at St John's Seminary, Womersley on 19 December 2020. Many congratulations to Matthew from us all!

**Pray for our Parish:** kindly pray for our parish always in your personal and family prayers. We are blessed with a number of dedicated parishioners who are always willing to give their gifts and talents for the greater glory of God and for the salvation of God's people. In this difficult time of the pandemic, we have been showing and proving our fraternal love for one another. May the New Year 2021 be a year of God's blessings to us all.

*"The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him." Psalm 28:7*

